



Bearsted & District u3a Monthly Reminder for February 2024

Welcome to the February 2024 Monthly Reminder, which is being distributed to all members either via e-mail or paper copy. This month's meeting will be held in Detling Village Hall on Thursday 8th February starting at the usual time of 2 pm.

From the Rockin' Chair

The January monthly meeting got us off to a great start to the new year with a very informative and well received talk on Concorde. This was the first of a varied and entertaining programme for 2024 which I hope many of you will enjoy. Have a look at our website for details.

In mentioning the website, our coordinator Dan would like to build up his library of photographs of group activities, places visited or Bearsted and its surroundings. Please ensure anyone appearing in a photo is happy for it to be displayed online (please also see below).

May I suggest you keep a lookout for Special Events this year (see later) I am sure these will prove to be very popular and are open to all members.

Please get in touch with me if you have any problems with, or suggestions to enhance, our U3A.

Live, Laugh and Learn.

All my very best wishes

Graham

Chair - Bearsted & District u3a



Speaker Secretary (Rick)

In January, we were joined by Guy Bartlett, an aviation historian. His talk “Concorde – Icon of the Skies” was an extremely well put together and presented documentary that included old newsreel footage of the fastest airliner ever built and film footage (rarely seen) taken in the cockpit during flight. Together with an audio system that broadcast the actual sound accompanying Concorde taking off, the realism of the event was remarkable. We also learnt about some of the innovative technology behind the design of the plane. Guy will be visiting us again in March next year.

February’s speaker is Paul Whittle who will be giving his travelogue/history talk “In the Land of the Gods – Exploring Eritrea”. This is a largely reclusive country that has more to offer than one might imagine. You may recall that in January 2023, Paul visited us when he presented his talk “The Venetian Maritime Empire”.

Request for Technical Support at Monthly Meetings

Currently our technical support at monthly meetings is undertaken by Steve but he is withdrawing from this role later in the year. We therefore need someone who has the relevant skills to take his place and if you think you are that person, please let Graham or Rick know via the website. Full support will be given. Meanwhile, thank you, Steve, for your help in this regard.

Transport

Those who regularly attend monthly meetings will know that parking in Detling can be difficult. It would therefore be helpful to others if members would consider whether car sharing is an option. Perhaps you know another member who lives near to you and also attends meetings. We know that some of you already do this but many may not have considered this as an option. Car sharing would not only benefit members but also the local community.

Share your Knowledge!

We know that many of you have hidden talents and so we would be interested to know whether anyone would like to make a presentation at our monthly General Meeting. Full support will be given so if you would like to share knowledge accrued in your working life or that reflects your interests, please let Richard or Graham know through the usual channel

Interest Group Co-Ordinator's Update (Linda)

It was this time last year that I started visiting our interest groups to get a better idea of what our members are getting up to. Well, I still haven't got round to them all. With 46 groups it has been quite a task but I am so glad that I started doing it. It has been a great opportunity to meet members who don't come to our monthly meetings and it has enabled me to find out what people's interests are outside u3a. It has sometimes led to members starting new groups for us too.

**Do you take an active part in your group?
The more you put in to the planning and running of your group the more
you will get out of it.**

We now have a few people interested in starting an **Astronomy** group so please let me know if this is something that might interest you.

Geoff is starting a new course for **Bridge** beginners/improvers in February but places are filling up fast.

One of our members would like a **Floristry** group. Can we get a few members to start a group?

Our **Local History** group had a waiting list so we started Local History 2. More members have since come forward so we might be able to start a third group shortly. Let me know if you are interested.

Can I remind everyone to let your group coordinator know if you are unable to attend a meeting. Some groups have a waiting list. If you do not give apologies on three occasions your place may be given to someone else.

Show and Tell (Thursday 11th April)

The committee has been making plans for our Show and Tell day on Thursday 11th April. We would like as many groups as possible to be represented as this gives an opportunity for prospective members to see

what we are about. It only needs one or two group members to be present at a table: bring along anything which shows what the group is about and what they have been up to. Would Group Co-ordinators please let Linda, our Interest Groups Co-ordinator know if your group would like to be included, either in person or via the website. Alternatively let any member of the committee know and they will pass the message on.

Group Activities

Lunch Bunch (Nigel)

The next Lunch Bunch event will take place at the Horseshoes, Dean Street, East Farleigh, ME15 0PR on Tuesday 27th February, 12:15 for 12:45.

History Group (Tony)

I am pleased to report that the History Group retains 10 members. We are looking forward to our meetings this year and are currently considering the logistics of suitable visits during the summer months.

Hidden London Walking Group (Patricia and Richard)

We finished 2023 on a high, with over 24 active members. Each person had contributed to organising, researching, and leading a walk during the previous 11 months.

2024 was welcomed with a January meeting, ably helped with cake and bubbly/tea/coffee. We have allocated all 11 months, and we look forward to seeing many parts of London that are off the normal routes.

Although London is very familiar to most, there are hundreds of areas that remain a mystery and we have great fun seeing nooks and crannies steeped in history, that we 'didn't know was there'! Attendance has been over 20 on all but a couple of walks, and this is very encouraging. We walk through all weathers, and very often in London the weather is kinder than expected and of course that is a bonus.

'Cheers' to 2024.

Special Events (Maureen)

**Coming soon – Live, laugh, learning visit - not specific to any group
- booking required - more details in the next newsletter**

Tuesday 21st May at 2 to 4.30pm - Visit the Paddle Steamer Medway Queen at Gillingham & celebrate her 100th birthday with a cream tea in the newly renovated saloon. The cost is £6 per head for cream teas plus £7 entry fee (which lasts for 1 year from date of visit).

Saturday 27 July at 2 to 4pm: Gravesend Pollinator Garden £7.50 each including tea and cake. Visit a stunning private garden, featured on BBC Gardeners' World in 2022. It is packed full of flowering plants to attract maximum numbers of butterflies, moths and bees. The owner will run a moth trap (weather permitting) to give an indication of the variety of species which visit. There will also be volunteers on hand to offer advice and suggestions for members' own gardens.

Wed 30 October at 1 to 3.30pm: Tour of Gurdwaras Sikh Temple, Gravesend plus light refreshments. Donations to the temple on the day would be appreciated.

Membership Secretary (Claire)

Emergency contact details

Members are reminded to keep their emergency contact details up to date. If you need to make any changes, please let me know via the website.

Third Age Matters Magazine

Should anyone no longer need their copy of the Third Age Matters magazine, you can drop them off at the monthly general meeting at the new members table, new members coffee mornings or at our 'show and tell' afternoons. You will find Claire at the Membership desk.

Photographs

Any member wishing to photograph other members should **ensure that all those in front of the camera are happy to have their photograph taken**. This is **especially important if it is intended to publish the photograph in any way**, particularly on the website, in the Reminder or otherwise make it publicly available.

Contributions from Members

This month's Quiz is about The Beatles (Damian)

1. **Name the drummer Ringo Starr replaced.**
2. **Which of The Beatles' No 1 singles was recorded with only two members of the group in the studio?**
3. **Which character from Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" did John Lennon erroneously portray as a 'good guy' in one of his most famous songs?**
4. **Which Beatles' single only reached No 2 in the charts because of the popularity of "Release Me" by Englebert Humperdinck?**



Not a Beatle

5. **In what year did John Lennon and Paul McCartney meet?**

5. What was the name of the group John Lennon was playing in at the time?
7. On 4th April 1964 The Beatles occupied the top 5 places in the US's *Cashbox* chart. What was the No 1 song?
8. Who did The Beatles meet on August 27th 1965?
9. Which Beatles LP was the last to feature a song not composed by one of the Beatles?
10. Which Beatles' song did William Shatner cover?



Should have been a Beatle

Answers to last month's quiz

1. Pedology is the science of ...what? **The study of Soil.**
2. What is special about the Kelvin temperature scale? **It starts at absolute zero.**
3. Who is reputed to be Britain's first professional female scientist? **Caroline Herschel, sister of William, who was awarded a pension of £50 by the king on 1st August 1786.**

4. What is a bacteriophage and what does it infect? **A virus which infects bacteria, as you will have deduced.**
5. Which element does the human body mostly consist of? **Oxygen (61% of the total).**
6. What temperature is absolute zero? **-273.15 C.**
7. In 1897, JJ Thomson discovered which fundamental particle? **The electron.**
8. What is Ockham's razor? **It is the principle that "no more things should be assumed to exist than are absolutely necessary". Named after the 14th Century English Franciscan monk, William of Ockham.**
9. Of the four fundamental forces, electromagnetism, gravity, the strong nuclear force and the weak nuclear force, which is the weakest? **Gravity.**
10. What is a buckyball? **A molecule, real name buckminsterfullerene made up of 60 carbon atoms arranged to be nearly spherical.**

Website

Dan, who is responsible for our u3a's publicity, would like members to send him any particularly attractive photographs of Bearsted that they think would be appropriate for the Welcome page of the Bearsted and District u3a website. If you have any, please contact him using the publicity link on the contact page of our website. He will give instructions on how to submit them.

Up-to-date details of our u3a are on our website. For access use the link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/bearsted/home>

The national u3a newsletter is full of useful and interesting things you can become involved in, including podcasts. All u3a members can now obtain access to national newsletters from the u3a website available at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. It is easy to create an account to use it. If you want to listen to u3a radio podcasts, you can do so by accessing

the [u3a YouTube channel](#). **Please note: should clicking on any link not work simply cut and paste the link into your browser.**

Request for Contributions

Everyone is invited to make a contribution to the next Reminder or to comment on this one. Please contact Damian via our website. Book groups might like to send a photograph of the cover of a book they have been reading; or you might like to submit a picture of a member carrying out a u3a activity.

Many of you subscribe to “Third Age Matters”, the magazine of the national u3a. Members are invited to contribute their thoughts to The Reminder on any interesting articles they read there. If you wish to do so, please let Damian know via the website.

Deadline for Contributions to the March 2024 Reminder (Damian)

Please note that the **deadline** for contributions to the March 2024 Reminder is Friday **1st March**. The committee will need to scrutinise a draft before issue so prompt responses would be appreciated. Also, some of our members are not online and time needs to be allowed for them to receive paper copies by post. It would be appreciated if any contributions could be submitted in WORD format.

Members will not need reminding (although we are going to do so), that we do not use members’ surnames in The Reminder for privacy reasons.